

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As noted above, the present application is a Continuation of U.S. Application Serial Number 09/940,150, filed August 27, 2001, the specification of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Claims 1-13 are canceled and claims 14-40 are added; as a result, claims 14-40 are now pending in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims 14-40 do not introduce any new subject matter and are intended to cover additional claimable subject matter fully supported by the originally filed specification.

The present preliminary amendment addresses additional allowable subject matter as supported by the specification of the Parent case, as originally filed. Applicant's independent claims 14, 21, 27, 31, and 38, as presented herein, recite allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the same upon consideration of the present continuation.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 659-9340.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: **MS Patent Application** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 16th day of March, 2004.

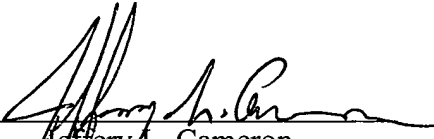
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Respectfully Submitted,
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By their Representatives,

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